(b) the details of the suggestions made for and against the amendment of the Bill and Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when the Bill is likely to become an Act and come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Government has received representations both infavour of the Delhi Rent Bill, 1995 and against certain provisions of the Bill relating mainly to deemed rent, registration of tenancy agreement, inheritibility of tenancy, rate of enhancement of rent and recovery of possession of premises. These are under consideration.

(c) Bill is awaiting the assent of the President.

Steps Taken to Prevent Destitution of Women

2477. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women beggars hauled up in the Capital and other metropolis during 1993-94,1994-95 and so far in 1995-96;

(b) the number of women and girls who took to prostitution in these metropolis during these years, as per Government assessment or records and the total population of prostitutes there; and

(c) whether these figures represent only a tip of the ice-berg of destitution of women in society, if so, the effective steps taken to prevent such destitution of women?;

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, the number of women beggars hauled up in the Capital during 1993-94 to 1995 is as under.

1993-94:	134
1995:	284
(Upto July. 95):	114

The information regarding other three metropolis is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b): According the Home Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, the number of women and girls arrested under section 294 Indian Penal Code and Immoral Traffic (Prevcention) Act, 1956 during the years 1993 to 1995 (upto 31st July, 1995) is as under:

Year	Women		Girls	
	u/s294	IPCITP	u/s294	IPCITP
1993	96	266	17	46
1994	53	223	14	38
1995	38	112	14	13

The information regarding other these metropolis is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c): The Government of India enacted the Immoral Traffic, (Prevention) Act, 1956, as amended in 1978 and- 1986 to check prostitution. The Act supplements the provisions of the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls. The Act also envisages setting up of protective homes and corrective institutions for the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of the resmued women and girls. The implementation of this Act rests with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Besides this Act, the Government of India has taken steps in areas such as education, awareness generation, economic empowerment, legal literacy, counselling, legal-aid, enforcement, support to voluntary agencies, publicity campaign etc. with a view to elevating the status of women which would reduce their exploitation and vulnerability to social, cultural and economic oppression.

Feasiblity of Peninsular Rivers Linkage Project

2478. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the daily "Hindu* dated the 17th July. 1995 about a letter written by the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to Dr. Udaya Marthy, Stale Convenor of Makhal Sakhti Syakkaram, about Peninsular rivers linkage project; and

(b) whether this project has been found feasible and if so, the steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The National Water Development Agency which was formed in 1982 is responsible to carry out the studies of the National Perspective for water Resources which comprises of two components namely, Peninsular rivers development and Himalayan rivers development for tmsferring water from water surplus basins to water scares basins. The Agency has completed prefeasbility studies for all the seventeen proposed links under Peninsular component and five links under Himalayan component. Feasiblility reports tor three links under Peninsular component have also been completed. After the prefeasibility studies are completed, these are circulated to the concerned basin States for their comments/ suggestions. These comments/ suggestions along with the clarifications thereon by the Agency are discussed in the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Water Development Agency. The projects can be considered for implementation after necessary agreements are reached amongst concerned States.

Study to reduce production cost of fertilizers

2479. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to find ways to reduce the production cost of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) while no formal study has been undertaken to find out ways to reduce the production cost of fertilizers, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer Pricing had outlined certain measures towards this end. Some of the recommendations of JPC accepted by the Government are: recognition of eneng conservation measures while fixing the retention prices in respect of controlled fertilizers; abolition of customs duty on import of phosphoric acid; abolition of customs duty on import of plant and machinery required for setting up of fertilizer plants; and interest rate concessions on long term loans. Some of the recommendations which could not be accepted are: reduction in the price of natural gas, freezing the price of other feedstocks for fertilizer industry, viz. naphtha, fuel oil, and LSHS, and abolition of excise duty on capital goods required for setting up of fertilizer plants.

Visit of Chief Advisor, BICP to determine prices of Rifampicin

2480. SHRI IUSH DUTTYADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that single man costing team headed by present Chief Ad viosor (Cost) of the BICP visited vairous units to determine the price of Rifampicin and its intermediates Rifa-S anbd Rifa-SV;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the report of the team is based on the concocted data and does not mention even quantity of imported and indigenous inputs used in the form of Rifa-S and Rifa-SV; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to inquire into the whole matter and have a fresh study conducted?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) no, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.